



# SIRA House Views

STEPSTONE INFRASTRUCTURE AND REAL ASSETS

March 2024

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Data as of December 2024, unless otherwise noted.

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# Evolving considerations

After a challenging 2023, there appear to be green shoots in fundraising and transaction activity as investors reenter the market. Market volatility appears to be receding, but uncertainties over interest rate trajectories, energy prices and supply chains remain.



## Transaction activity

Lower overall transaction activity

However, fundamental demand for infrastructure remains strong, evidenced in a resurgence in Q4 2023 fundraising activity

Delays in transaction exits have reduced liquidity for LPs

Secondary transaction activity is growing, giving LPs more control over liquidity



## Portfolio construction

LPs may consider increasing weighting of core-plus and value add infrastructure to counter higher base rates

Energy transition is a focus for an increasing pool of investors

Pricing for core infrastructure likely to reprice in the new macro economic environment, but will remain an important contributor to a well diversified portfolio



## Dynamic macro conditions

Inflation declining but likely to be above central bank targets for longer

Reconfiguration of supply chains driven by geopolitical risks will have upward pressure on inflation

Interest rates have stabilized, central banks may not wait until inflation is at target before lowering rates

Potential for soft landing in major economies promising

# Market themes

# Key observations

## Green shoots leading into 2024

Despite the large number of funds in market, 2023 saw the lowest level of fundraising since 2015. LPs deferred commitments in response to rising interest rates and increased weighting of unlisted assets. Q4 2023 saw an uptick in fundraising, with ~USD67 billion of commitments, a 330% increase on the total raised in Q1 to Q3 2023. With the stabilisation of interest rates in the US, Europe and the UK, LPs appear to be more confident about the macro-outlook. StepStone expects to see this momentum continue into 2024.

## Energy transition funds

Energy transition funds in the market grew by 60% in 2023 compared to 2022. The supply of funds is being met with demand from increasing numbers of institutional investors specifically seeking exposure to the energy transition. Many of these funds are likely to have large exposure to traditional renewable energy assets, however, lesser established technologies such as biofuels, EV charging, and demand side managers are maturing and will become larger components of fund portfolios.

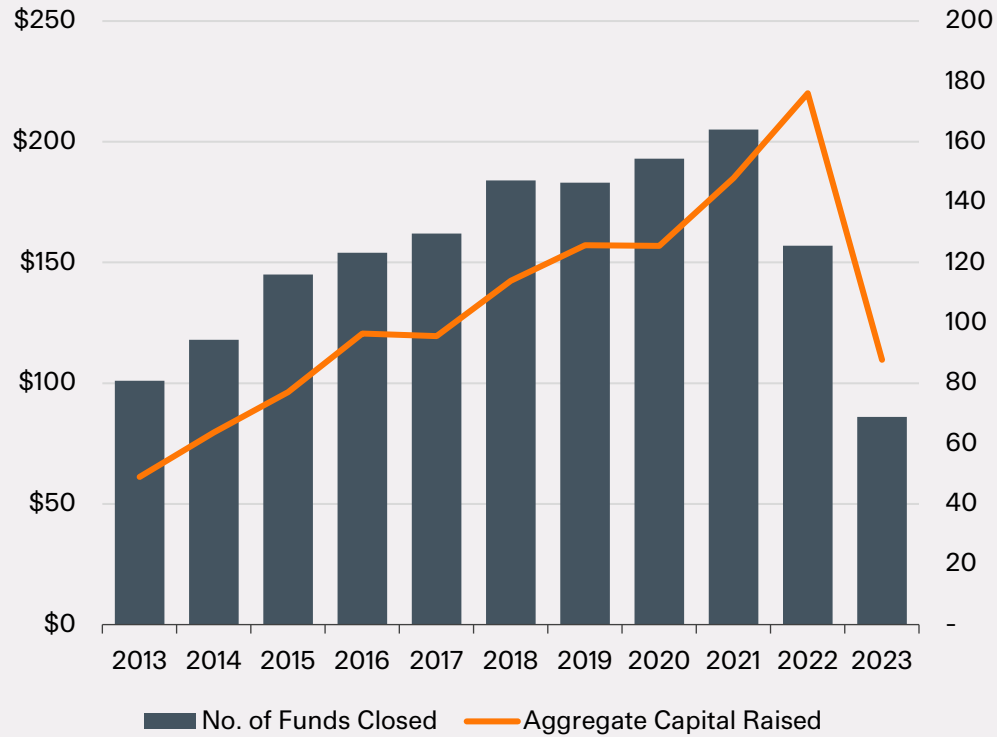
## Secondary market growth

StepStone expects interest from institutional investors in funds focused on secondary transactions will continue to grow. Although 2023 aggregate raisings was less than 2022, 2024 has already seen almost as much capital raised as the whole of 2022. The secondary market for infrastructure is playing catch up compared with private equity, and both LPs and bidders are establishing market dynamics. LPs are seeking liquidity through stake sales for a variety of reasons, such as portfolio construction and return of capital as a substitute for asset disposals by funds. StepStone expects these themes to remain relevant for 2024.

# Overview of fundraising activity

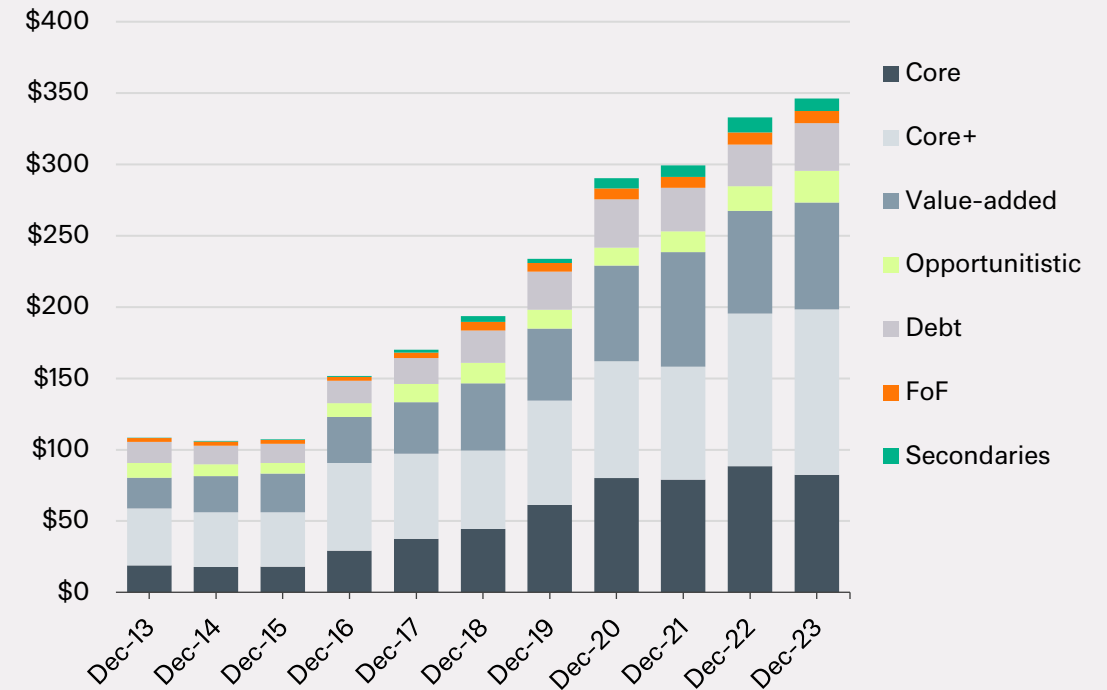
## Unlisted infrastructure funds closed

USD in billions



## Unlisted infrastructure fund dry powder

USD in billions

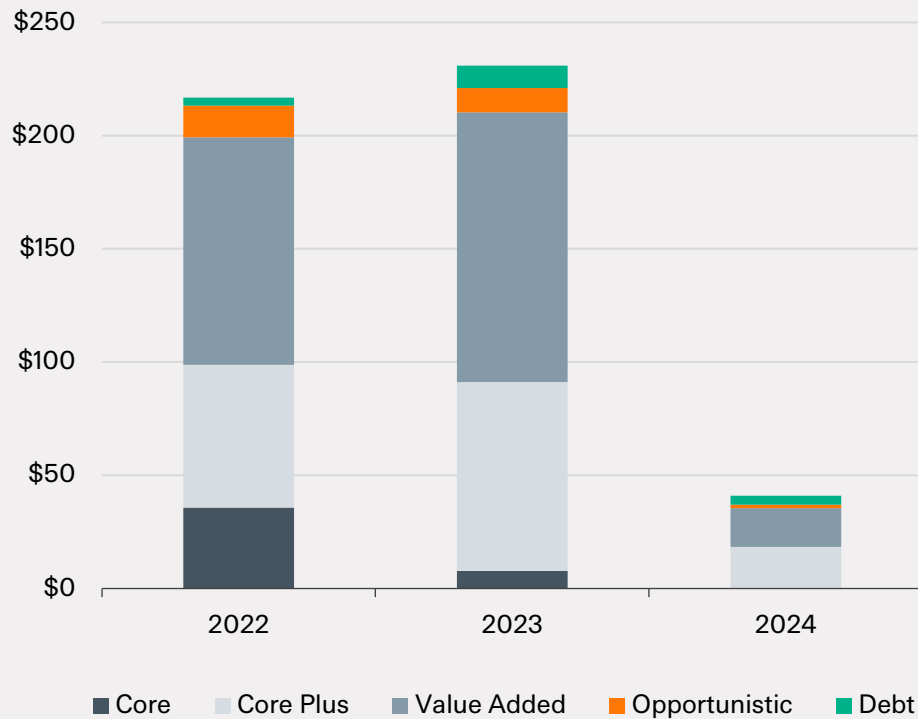


Source: Preqin as of January 2024.

# Overview of fundraising activity

## Funds in market by vintage<sup>1</sup>

USD in millions



Source: Preqin, January 2024; (1) Based on target fund size

## Five largest closed-end funds in market

Fund	GP	Sector	Target size
Global Infrastructure Partners V	GIP	Diversified	USD25bn
EQT Infrastructure VI	EQT	Diversified	EUR20bn
KKR Global Infrastructure Investors V	KKR	Diversified	USD20bn
Brookfield Global Transition Fund II	Brookfield	Energy transitions	USD17bn
ISQ Global Infrastructure Fund IV	I Squared	Diversified	USD15bn



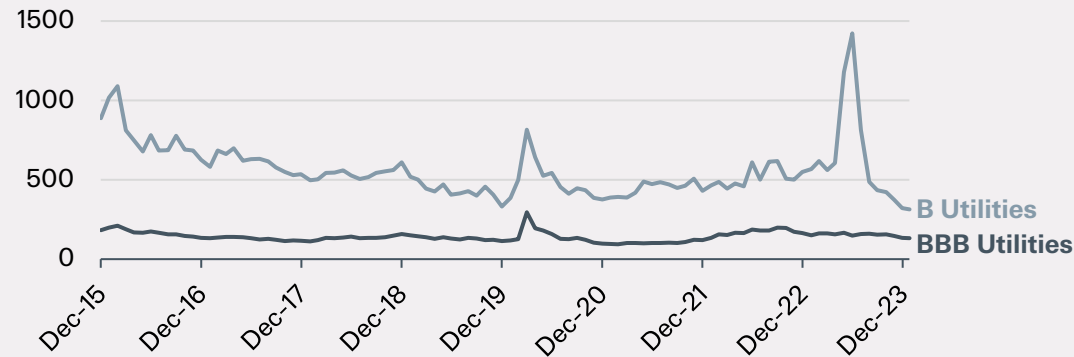
# Listed infrastructure is rebounding, however cumulative performance is below unlisted with more volatility

	2022	2023	Peak-to-current	Volatility	
<b>LISTED INDICES</b>					Listed indices have benefited from the general improvement in market sentiment during Q4 2023 that base rates are at or close to peak, and central banks may consider loosening monetary policy.
FTSE Global Listed	(8.7%)	(2.0%)	(13.0%)	13.0%	
DJB Listed	(6.6%)	4.5%	(5.4%)	15.6%	
S&P Global Listed	(0.2%)	6.8%	(0.8%)	17.8%	
<b>INFLATION</b>					Inflation is easing but core inflation is above central bank targets; medium-term inflation could remain elevated as global supply chains are reconfigured due to geopolitical pressures and companies adopted a China + one policy.
US	8.1%	3.9%			
UK	10.8%	4.2%			
EU	9.7%	4.9%			
<b>UNLISTED INDICES</b>					Private infrastructure returns have closely tracked inflation over 2022 and 2023, demonstrating the relatively strong inflation correlation.
MSCI Global Private	9.7%	4.1%	-	3.6%	

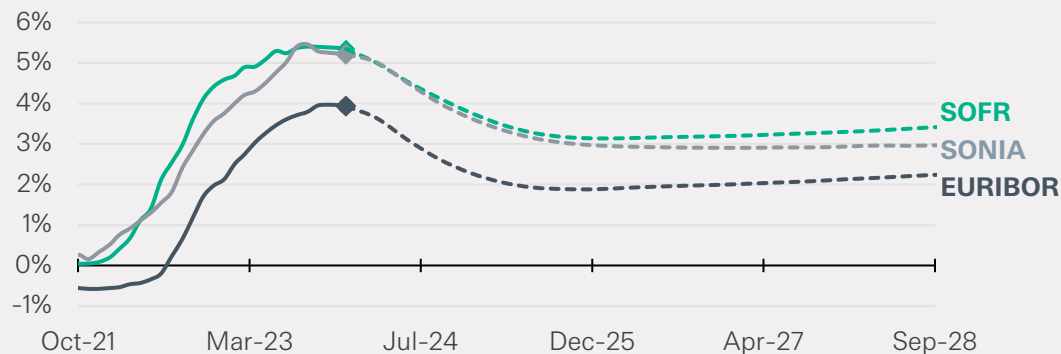
Sources: Bloomberg, December 2023. The referenced indices/benchmarks are shown for general market comparisons and are not meant to represent any particular fund. An investor cannot directly invest in an index.

# Higher borrowing costs not an immediate concern but could impact greenfield platforms

## Investment and sub-investment grade spreads



## Short-term interest rates



## NOW

GPs report that through 2023 there was a “flight to quality.”

Many GPs locked in debt prior to the recent increase in margins, mitigating refinancing risk. Spreads for BBB and B-rated debt has retreated from highs in Q4 2024 and with base rates forecast to decline in the next 12-24 months, the cost of new debt is lower, albeit above 2021 costs.

## OUTLOOK

Despite elevated interest rates, many GPs feel portfolio companies are well positioned in the near term to manage the new interest rates environment.

In the longer term, access and cost of financing will be a key factor in determining future expansion, especially within growth platform companies which could see reduced cash flow because of increased for debt service.

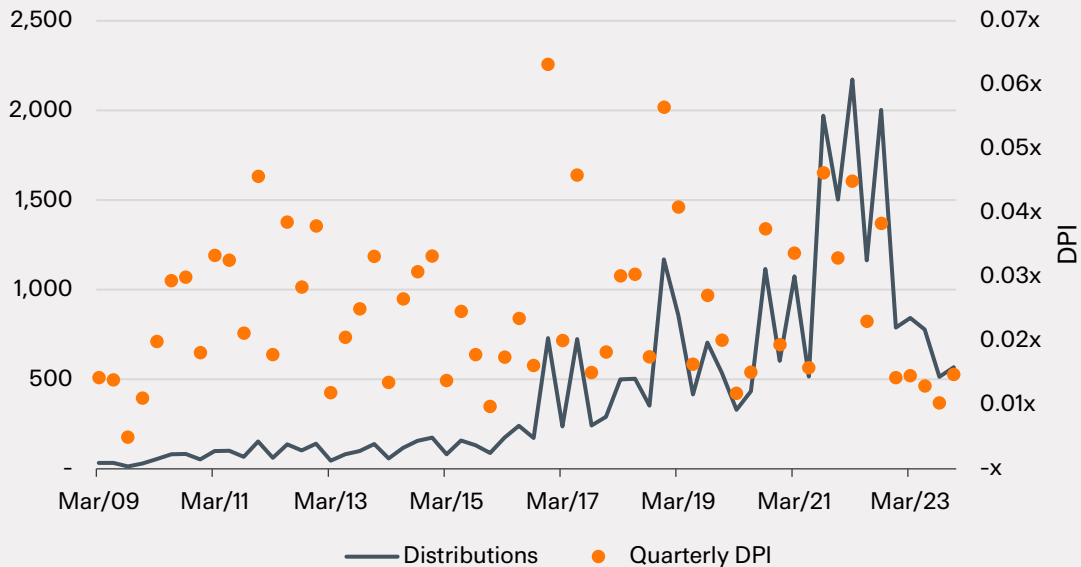
Source: Bloomberg 24-Jan-24

The opinions expressed herein reflect the current opinions of Stepstone as of the date appearing in this material only. There can be no assurance that views and opinions expressed in this document will come to pass.

# Secondary market expected to continue to be a source of liquidity for LPs

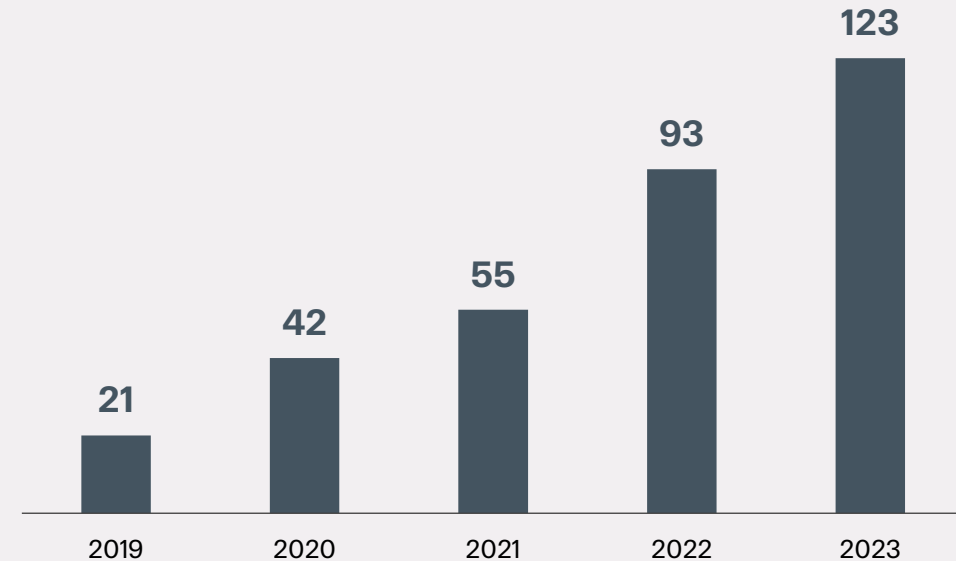
## Distributions<sup>1</sup>

USD in millions



## Secondary transactions reviewed by StepStone<sup>2</sup>

Number reviewed



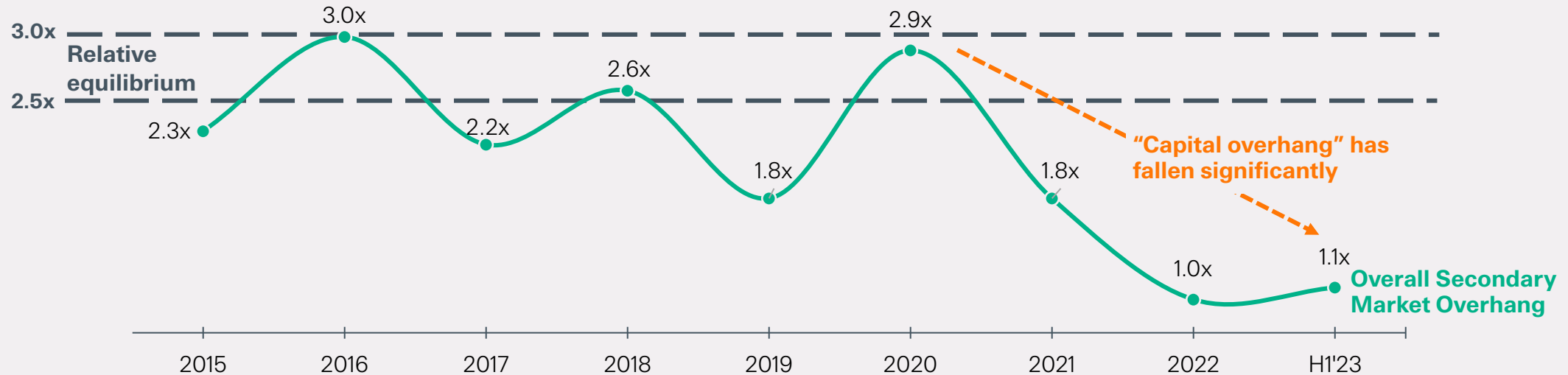
➤ There was a noticeable decline in distributions in 2023 compared with 2021 and 2022. This contributed to challenges faced by LPs seeking to rebalance portfolios or meet liabilities.

➤ The infrastructure secondaries market was already growing in 2022, however 2023 saw further increases in activity in contrast to both primary and direct investing activity. This momentum is expected to continue in 2024.

Source: As of January 2024 (1) StepStone database. Based on cash flows from 275 funds; (2) StepStone

# Current secondary market opportunity

## Secondary market capital overhang<sup>1,2</sup>



- Supply / demand imbalance should lead to a buyer friendly environment for private market secondaries.
- With a less developed buyer universe within infrastructure, and supportive trends in deal supply, this reduction in overhang is likely to be highly applicable to infrastructure.

There are no assurances that historical trends will continue or that the Firm will be able to implement its investment strategy.

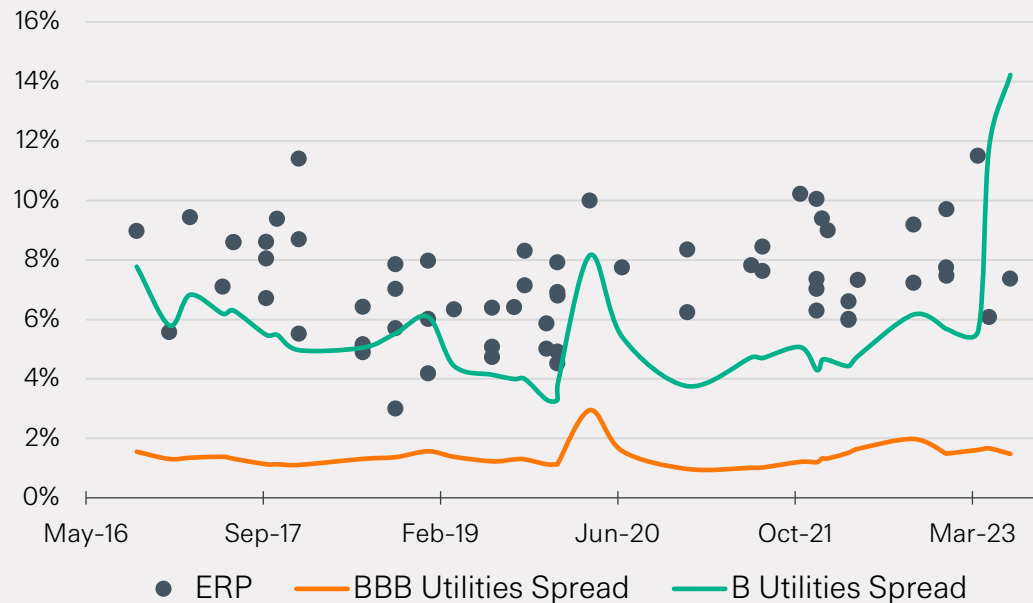
1. Data sourced from "Jefferies - 1H 2023 Global Secondary Market Review" and StepStone Group proprietary data.

2. Capital overhang defined as dedicated available secondaries capital divided by LTM secondary volume. Dedicated secondary capital includes equity dry powder and excludes expected near term fundraising and available leverage.

# Core infrastructure demand to remain

Although Core infrastructure valuations have been impacted by rising interest rates, this market segment continues to play an important role in portfolio construction

## Implied Equity Risk Premium (ERP) for Core infrastructure underwriting<sup>1</sup>



Core infrastructure can provide inflation protection over the medium- to long-term

Historically, GP target returns have remained at a premium to BBB and B-rated infrastructure debt

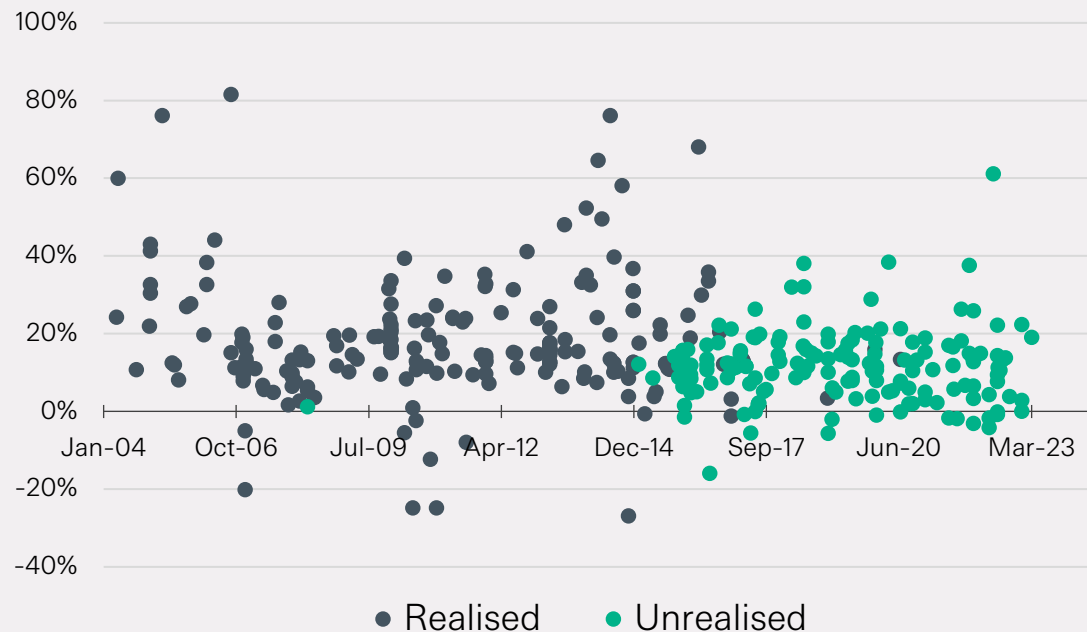
Source: StepStone, Bloomberg as at 31-Dec-23

Notes (1) Based on 64 co-investment transactions. ERP is defined as the premium of the GP's underwritten return over the relevant 2-year training average 10-year Government bond

# Core infrastructure demand to remain

Although Core infrastructure valuations have been impacted by rising interest rates, this market segment continues to play an important role in portfolio construction

IRR for Core infrastructure assets by year of entry<sup>1</sup>



Core infrastructure has generated attractive returns on a consistent basis over the past 20 years.

Core infrastructure is likely to undergo a repricing, however, this will be based on longer-term outlook for interest rates as opposed to short-term rates.

Source: StepStone, Bloomberg as at 31-Dec-23

Notes (1) Based on 228 realised transactions and 160 unrealised transactions

# Correlation of public and private markets

Core infrastructure continues to provide diversification with low correlation to other asset classes

	Global bonds	Global equities	US Core RE	Global Core infra	Timber	Direct lending	Venture Capital	Private Equity	Macro
Global bonds	1.0								
Global equities	0.4	1.0							
US Core RE	-0.2	0.0	1.0						
Global Core infra	-0.1	0.0	0.4	1.0					
Timber	-0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.2	1.0				
Direct lending	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.3	-0.1	1.0			
Venture Capital	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.2	-0.1	0.5	1.0		
Private Equity	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.2	-0.1	0.8	0.8	1.0	
Macro	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	-0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.0

Source: MSCI, Bloomberg, Burgiss, NCREIF, Cliffwater, HFRI, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Private Equity and Venture Capital are time weighted returns from Burgiss. RE – real estate. Global equities: MSCI AC World Index. Global Bonds: Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index. U.S. Core Real Estate: NCREIF Property Index – Open End Diversified Core Equity component. Global infrastructure (Infra.): MSCI Global Quarterly Infrastructure Asset Index. U.S. Direct Lending: Cliffwater Direct Lending Index. Timber: NCREIF Timberland Property Index (U.S.). Macro and are all from HFRI. All correlation coefficients are calculated based on quarterly total return data for the period 6/30/2008 – 6/30/2023. Returns are denominated in USD.



# Regional outlooks



# EUROPE: SECTOR OUTLOOK (1/2)

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Investment considerations</i>
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<p><b>Airports</b></p> <p>European capacity is expected to exceed 100% of 2019 levels in 2024 as the recovery in passenger numbers continues. Holiday charter and low-cost airline passengers continue to lead the recovery, whilst business travel has been slower to recover.</p>
	<p><b>Road</b></p> <p>Traffic levels have continued to hold up despite the macroeconomic slowdown. Despite the well noted cost-of-living pressures, political interference has been limited, with operators largely achieving inflation passthrough in tariffs.</p>
	<p><b>Ports</b></p> <p>Rising costs and lower volumes due to macroeconomic headwinds are impacting port margins, primarily containerized freight. Diversified ports have benefitted from volume growth in sectors not impacted by slowing consumer demand, for example offshore wind, construction, and essential commodities. Limited transaction activity but diversified assets remain attractive given softer valuations in some areas.</p>
<b>UTILITIES</b>	<p><b>Electricity</b></p> <p>National and EU policy focused on the electrification of heating, transport and industrial processes is driving strong volume growth projections for electric utilities. Grid connection queues remain a concern though actions have been taken in a number of jurisdictions to remedy this.</p>
	<p><b>Gas</b></p> <p>Gas outlook remains very jurisdiction specific and closely linked to the national hydrogen policies. Northern Europe is the focus of activity, including the UK, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, supported by recent hydrogen policy and auctions but not limited to these countries. Both the EU and UK have passed legislation to allow hydrogen blending on gas networks, although some alignment will be required as it is limited to distribution in the UK whereas the EU also allows blending on transmission networks.</p>
	<p><b>Water</b></p> <p>Significant increase in investment through the next regulatory period for UK water (companies have proposed to spend £96 billion representing an 88% increase over the prior regulatory period). Valuations reflect the current uncertainty in the short term as companies await the regulatory determination around business plans.</p>
	<p><b>Waste and recycling</b></p> <p>The EU promotes recycling and aims to limit landfill, targeting to recycle 65% of municipal waste. Favorable market conditions could generate opportunities in plastics driven by the relatively low rate of recycling. Infrastructure to recycle critical minerals is being developed.</p>

Source: Ofwat December 2023; EU Waste Framework Directive. The opinions expressed herein reflect the current opinions of StepStone as of the date appearing in this material only. There can be no assurance that views and opinions expressed in this document will come to pass.

## EUROPE: SECTOR OUTLOOK (2/2)

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Investment considerations</i>
<b>ENERGY TRANSITION</b>	Solar Solar cell prices are now well below their peak, driven by slower Chinese demand and high production capacity Power prices, driven by PPAs, are higher compared to historic levels, broadly compensating for higher interest rates and capex costs
	Wind Capex costs remain elevated across onshore and offshore, as OEMs face margin pressures, however offshore wind auction prices are rising again, as demonstrated by recent auction rounds in Ireland and the UK
	Biomass EU regulation (Renewable Energy Directive II) supports the growth for advanced biofuels High investor appetite to develop biogas plants. Security of feedstock continues to be a key consideration
	EV Charging Continued demand for on-street and off-street EV charging points. EV penetration across countries increases Grid congestion is a consideration, particularly at motorway service areas
	Hydrogen First auction round for hydrogen production Contract-for-Differences in the UK concluded in December with 125MW of capacity receiving contracts. In Europe, several green hydrogen projects have been contracted under the Renewable Fuels of Non-Biological Origin
	Energy efficiency Reductions in energy demand are continuing to be observed, though this seems to be driven more by cost of energy than efficiency policy.
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	Fiber European governments continue to target nationwide broadband coverage Some cable operators are overbuilding their network with fiber technology, therefore opportunities should be assessed in light of local market conditions Small "altnets" with limited penetration are being consolidated. Availability of debt financing is tightening
	Towers Accelerating activity, particularly strategic and TowerCo divestitures and asset recycling Valuations becoming more attractive due to sellers' need to raise capital, but remain high in absolute terms Robustness of contracts (including inflation pass-through) has been borne out through the current economic backdrop
	Data centers Supply / demand imbalance continues to persist, with demand from hyperscalers outweighing supply AI deployments have power requirement that are multiples of the prior norm, so access to power is paramount for AI Europe's strict data sovereignty laws are driving data center capacity into Europe, including into tier-2 markets

# NORTH AMERICA: SECTOR OUTLOOK (1/2)

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Investment considerations</i>
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	Airports Passenger volumes have remained strong and are above pre-pandemic volumes; however, weakness could potentially be displayed in a slowing US economy
	Road IRA includes significant spend for road improvement (~US\$3 billion); autonomous vehicles have the potential to materially alter road utilization
	Ports Post-Covid capacity constraints have eased; however, US imports have been lower in anticipation of weakening US consumer demand A continued emphasis on US “onshoring” may additionally limit port activity due to lower export volumes
<b>UTILITIES</b>	Electricity The IEA forecasts a “rapid pace” of growth for data center electricity consumption in the US over the next couple of years, rising from roughly 4 percent of US demand in 2022 to 6 percent by 2026. Renewables and electrification of industry will continue to drive investment
	Gas Gas infrastructure, in particular gulf shore LNG infrastructure, remains strong driven by global energy demand In December 2023, LNG exports reached an all-time monthly high of 8.6 million tons, and the recent pause in approvals for new projects could increase attractiveness of existing projects
	Water While water utilities have been historically highly fragmented and regional, the IRA includes US\$4 billion to address drought in the western United States and nearly US\$20 billion to support voluntary conservation on ranches and farms across the country, suggesting ample opportunity for water services infrastructure spend
	Waste and recycling The push towards creating a more sustainable and more circular economy is gaining traction in North America following the lead of Europe Moving towards a circulate economy could unlock an incremental US\$4.5 trillion of global GDP by 2030. Opportunities and subsectors include collections, recycling and energy from waste

## NORTH AMERICA: SECTOR OUTLOOK (2/2)

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Investment considerations</i>	
<b>ENERGY TRANSITION</b>	Solar	Despite near-term challenges related to supply chain constraints and tax credit qualification, from 2024 to 2028, MW installation growth rates are expected to be in the low teens
	Wind	Offshore wind continues to be a challenged sector with supply chain and cost inflation hampering development. Additionally, the US needs significant port infrastructure spend to support offshore ambitions
	Biomass	Large energy conglomerates continue to be active in the space (Enbridge/Morrow Renewables, Marathon/LF Bioenergy, Shell/Nature Energy), however, despite recent growth, the market is relatively nascent with RNG currently only making up 0.5% of the North American natural gas market
	EV Charging	EV charger installations in the US are expected to grow fourfold by 2027; however, this will be dependent on continued spend on reliable electricity load growth and required associated transmission infrastructure
	Hydrogen	From an infrastructure perspective, hydrogen opportunities are still relatively immature and early. Additionally, further federal government guidance on tax credit treatment is still to be determined
	Energy efficiency	Energy efficiency, and specifically "energy-as-a-service" platforms are increasingly common with many infrastructure GPs supporting platforms. Market is still highly fragmented and regional, and in order to achieve scale dependent on continued business development and M&A
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	Fiber	While experiencing rapid growth coming out of Covid, large TelCo's (e.g., AT&T, Altice, Frontier, etc.) have lowered forward fiber guidance largely as a result of challenging capital markets and lower churn expectations
	Towers	5G spending was roughly 50% lower than initially anticipated as US operators look to shore up revenues by utilizing existing infrastructure to gain new customers and squeeze more from existing customers. Valuations becoming more attractive due to sellers' need to raise capital, but remain high in absolute terms
	Data centers	Supply / demand imbalance continues to persist, with demand from hyperscalers outweighing supply. Higher debt costs have slowed hyperscale growth; however, long-term data demand prospects are strong. Securing electric interconnect, in particular in data center dense Tier-1 markets (e.g., Northern Virginia) can make development challenging

Source: Woodmac June 2023; Woodmac July 2023. The opinions expressed herein reflect the current opinions of StepStone as of the date appearing in this material only. There can be no assurance that views and opinions expressed in this document will come to pass.

# AUSTRALIA & ASIA PACIFIC: SECTOR OUTLOOK (1/2)

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Investment considerations</i>
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	Airports Passenger volumes could potentially surpass pre-Covid levels in 2024. Limited investment options across Asia as key airports are tightly held however there are short term opportunities in Australia in regional airports
	Road A number of transactions in the road sector in India recently indicating growing maturity of the market in that country. Interest from institutional investors likely to remain given favorable economic and demographic outlook
	Ports Freight volumes in Australia have been affected by strikes at stevedores resulting in a large backlog that will take several months to clear. Trade flows likely to see gradual but continued changes as companies diversify away from China
<b>UTILITIES</b>	Electricity Demand for electricity will continue to grow, and this thematic is expected to persist in the long term  The energy transition will require significant investment in transmission and distribution infrastructure however, as in North America and Europe, meeting the government-mandated decarbonization targets will be challenging due to competition for raw materials and production of equipment
	Gas Gas will continue to be central to energy generation mix in many Asian nations due to the growth in energy demand.  In contrast, gas is facing an uncertain future in Australia as state and local governments seek to acceleration the energy transition.
	Waste and recycling Australia is experiencing increased growth in energy from waste plants, with several high-profile plants being worked through the development and construction phase led by industrial sponsors. The sector in Australia is relatively nascent and will need proving, however it could be an attractive sector for institutional investors as sponsors seek to recycle capital

## AUSTRALIA & ASIA PACIFIC: SECTOR OUTLOOK (2/2)

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Investment considerations</i>	
<b>ENERGY TRANSITION</b>	Solar	Demand for solar in developing nations pursuing decarbonization goals will remain strong. Likely to benefit from ramp up of supply in panels from China leading to lower prices
	Wind	Several governments are pursuing offshore wind (compared with onshore) due to space limitations onshore and cost competitiveness. Capacity increases in the short term will be limited to the more advanced nations such as Taiwan and Japan, which have more mature permitting and offtake regimes, however several other nations, such as Australia, are expected to see progress in central planning and permitting which could give rise to attractive opportunities
	EV Charging	Likely to remain limited to developed countries such as Japan and Australia due to the cost of EVs and the investment required in networks for charging infrastructure  Australian Government has started discussions on forcing car manufacturers to improve fleet wide carbon emissions, which could have a favorable impact on the investment case for EV charging
	Green Hydrogen/ Methanol/ Ammonia	Japan emerging as a potential key player in the green hydrogen/ammonia/methanol market as the country seeks to decarbonize industrial production however unlikely to see material development in the short term
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	Fiber	Activity in the fiber sector is expected to be limited, other than potentially select opportunities in Australia
	Towers	Activity in the towers sector historically focused on Australia and India however consolidation has led to concentration of ownership with institutional investors  Investors now seeking opportunities in emerging markets such as the Philippines and Indonesia in partnership with local players
	Data centers	Data center growth expected to continue across Asia. Some markets are easing caps on foreign investment which could lead to more opportunities for institutional investors

## RISKS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

**Risks Associated with Investments.** Identifying attractive investment opportunities and the right underlying fund managers is difficult and involves a high degree of uncertainty. There is no assurance that the investments will be profitable and there is a substantial risk that losses and expenses will exceed income and gains.

**Restrictions on Transfer and Withdrawal; Illiquidity of Interests; Interests Not Registered.** The investment is highly illiquid and subject to transfer restrictions and should only be acquired by an investor able to commit its funds for a significant period of time and to bear the risk inherent in such investment, with no certainty of return. Interests in the investment have not been and will not be registered under the laws of any jurisdiction. Investment has not been recommended by any securities commission or regulatory authority. Furthermore, the aforementioned authorities have not confirmed the accuracy or determined the adequacy of this document.

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**Reliance on Managers.** The investment will be highly dependent on the capabilities of the managers.

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**Uncertainty Due to Public Health Crisis.** A public health crisis, such as the recent outbreak of the COVID-19 global pandemic, can have unpredictable and adverse impacts on global, national and local economies, which can, in turn, negatively impact StepStone and its investment performance. Disruptions to commercial activity (such as the imposition of quarantines or travel restrictions) or, more generally, a failure to contain or effectively manage a public health crisis, have the ability to adversely impact the businesses of StepStone's investments. In addition, such disruptions can negatively impact the ability of StepStone's personnel to effectively identify, monitor, operate and dispose of investments. Finally, the outbreak of COVID-19 has contributed to, and could continue to contribute to, extreme volatility in financial markets. Such volatility could adversely affect StepStone's ability to raise funds, find financing or identify potential purchasers of its investments, all of which could have material and adverse impact on StepStone's performance. The impact of a public health crisis such as COVID-19 (or any future pandemic, epidemic or outbreak of a contagious disease) is difficult to predict and presents material uncertainty and risk with respect to StepStone's performance.

**Taxation.** An investment involves numerous tax risks. Please consult with your independent tax advisor.

**Conflicts of Interest.** Conflicts of interest may arise between StepStone and investors. Certain potential conflicts of interest are described below; however, they are by no means exhaustive. There can be no assurance that any particular conflict of interest will be resolved in favor of an investor.

**Allocation of Investment Opportunities.** StepStone currently makes investments, and in the future will make investments, for separate accounts having overlapping investment objectives. In making investments for separate accounts, these accounts may be in competition for investment opportunities.

**Existing Relationships.** StepStone and its principals have long-term relationships with many private equity managers. StepStone clients may seek to invest in the pooled investment vehicles and/or the portfolio companies managed by those managers.

**Carried Interest.** In those instances where StepStone and/or the underlying portfolio fund managers receive carried interest over and above their basic management fees, receipt of carried interest could create an incentive for StepStone and the portfolio fund managers to make investments that are riskier or more speculative than would otherwise be the case. StepStone does not receive any carried interest with respect to advice provided to, or investments made on behalf, of its advisory clients.

**Other Activities.** Employees of StepStone are not required to devote all of their time to the investment and may spend a substantial portion of their time on matters other than the investment.

**Material, Non-Public Information.** From time to time, StepStone may come into possession of material, non-public information that would limit their ability to buy and sell investments.

**ESG Integration.** While StepStone seeks to integrate certain ESG factors into its investment process and firm operations, there is no guarantee that StepStone's ESG strategy will be successfully implemented or that any investments or operations will have a positive ESG impact. Applying ESG factors to investment decisions involves qualitative and subjective decisions and there is no guarantee the criteria used by StepStone to formulate decisions regarding ESG, or StepStone's judgment regarding the same, will be reflected in the beliefs or values of any particular client or investor. There are significant differences in interpretation of what constitutes positive ESG impact and those interpretations are rapidly changing. The description of ESG integration herein is provided to illustrate StepStone's intended approach to investing and firm operations; however, there is no guarantee that the processes will be followed in every circumstance or at all.

**Performance Information.** No investment decisions may be made in reliance on this document. In considering performance information herein, readers should bear in mind that past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results and that actual results may vary. There can be no assurance that any StepStone fund will be able to successfully implement its investment strategy or avoid losses. Performance shown herein may include investments across different StepStone funds. The aggregate returns are not indicative of the returns an individual investor would receive from these investments. No individual investor received such aggregate returns as the investments were made across multiple funds and accounts over multiple years.



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